

For

TITLE: SWIVEL OR ROTATING GOLF CLUB HEAD.

CROSS - REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS this application claims the benefit of PPA Application Number 60/476157 Filing Date 06/04/2003

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION - FIELD OF INVENTION

The present invention relates to the game of golf. Specifically to a moveable or rotating golf club head.

PRIOR ART

Golf clubs are well known to have a shaft, a club head, and a grip or method of holding the club. The club head also has a center or sweet spot, when hit the golfer has the best chance of keeping the golf ball on line to the target. The shaft and club head are rigid and work together as one piece.

Because of the importance of putting to scoring well in the game of golf, serious golfers spend a great deal of time practicing their putting stroke and thereby improve their score.

Applicant is aware of patented golf clubs and putters with adjustable shafts and club heads that move when adjusted by the golfer. These clubs seem to be very complex and include many working parts.

Such as U.S. Patent 5,749,790 and U.S. Patent 5,692,969 and 4,815,740. In these patents the head of the golf club is adjustable relative to the shaft in a variety of ways to vary the angle or loft of the club head.

Applicant is not aware of any prior art that utilizes a uniquely configured practice golf club, with a club head that swivels or rotates upon being struck by a golf ball.

The club head is also configured via an indicator or indicia on the club head and shaft to visually indicate the amount of rotation the club head moves when the golf ball is hit off-center.

The indicator is easily reset and with practice the golfer will learn to strike the golf ball without moving the indicator off line, indicating a center hit.

Therefore it would be very desirable to have a training golf club or putter that is simple in construction and upon impact visually lets the golfer know if the golf shot or put is a center hit.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is directed at the golfer who with proper practice wants to improve their swing and striking of the golf ball or put.

With the present invention, the golf club head will swivel or rotate 360 degrees around the golf club shaft. How much the club head rotates around the center axis of the shaft depends on how far off-center the golf ball is hit and how hard.

With the present invention, the golfer lines up the golf ball and swings or puts. If the golf ball is not struck in the center or sweet spot on the club head, the head will swivel or rotate and throw the golf ball and indicators off line in an exaggerated fashion making the golfer aware of a bad swing or put.

The opposite happens when a golf ball is hit in the center or sweet spot on the swivel club head. The club head will not move and the indicators will line up making the golfer aware of a properly struck ball. With practice the golfer can greatly improve their golf swing or putting stroke.

It is therefore an object of this invention to provide a practice golf club that a golfer can use indoors or outdoors and have fun while lowering their golf score.

It is another object of this invention to provide a practice golf club that on impact will visually show the golfer where the golf ball was struck on the club head by the movement of the head and indicators.

It is yet another object of this invention to provide a training aid that looks, feels and handles like a conventional golf club.

In accordance with these and other objects that will become apparent, the swivel or rotating club head will now be described with reference to the accompanying drawing.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

Fig. 1 is a right perspective view of a conventional golf putter modified in accordance with the concept of the present invention.

Fig. 2 is a right side view of fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a top view of fig. 1.

Fig. 4 is a front side view of fig. 1.

Fig. 5 is an exploded view of the golf putter in fig. 1.

Fig. 6 is a sectional view of fig. 5.

Fig. 7 is a top view of the putter striking the golf ball on-center.

Fig. 8 is a top view of the putter striking the golf ball off-center left.

Fig. 9 is again a top view of the putter striking the golf ball off-center right.

Drawing - Reference Numerals

12-golf club shaft **14**-member **14a**-houses golf shaft **14b**-tapered piece **14c**-pivot point **16**-indicator etched on tapered piece **18**-indicator etched on club head **20**-club head or putter head **20a**-front face **20b**-rear face **20c**-topside **20d**-bottom side **20e**-front **20f**-backside **22**-screw hole **24**-pin or screw **26**-bushing **28**-bore or through-hole **30**-screw **32**-tension spring or slip clutch **34**-golf ball

DESCRIPTION OF A PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

A swivel or pivotable putter head or golf club head according to preferred embodiments of the present invention is shown in figs. 1 - 9.

Fig. 1 **12** is the pivotable putter head shaft that is approximately a 70-degree angle and of conventional length. The shaft is secured at the top end of rotatable member **14**. The shaft may be made of any material a golf club shaft is made of including steel. Pivotable putter head **20** is comprised of a front face **20a**, a rear face **20b**, topside **20c**, a bottom side **20d**, a front **20e** and a backside **20f**. Pivotable putter head **20** also has a bore approximately center on topside **20c**. Pivotable putter head **20** is pivotably or rotatably mounted and may be made of any material a golf club head is made of including aluminum. Front face **20a** is the side of pivotable putter head **20** that a right hander strikes the ball with. Member **14** and connection point **14a** is recessed the same outside diameter as shaft **12** and holds shaft **12** in place with pin or screw **24**. Member **14** is an integral part of **14a**, **14b** and **14c** shown in fig. 5. Member **14** is rotatable disposed within the central portion of bore **28**. Member **14** may be made of aluminum or any other suitable material. An indicator or indicia **16** is etched into tapered piece **14b**. On the topside of **20c** etched in the metal is indicator or indicia **18**. Fig. 1 shows Indicator **16** and indicator **18** in-line, in this position, indicators **16** and **18** are in the ready to use position.

Referring to fig. 2, fig. 3 and fig. 4, show three different views of pivotable putter head **20** modified according to the present invention. Fig. 2 is the front face **20a**, fig. 3 is the topside **20c** and fig. 4 is the front **20e**.

Pivotable putter head **20** of the embodiment shown in fig. 5 an exploded view. Fig. 5 clearly shows pin or screw **24** holding shaft **12** in position and that member **14a**, **14b**, and **14c** are of one piece of material. As can be seen projection or pivot point **14c** is rotatably disposed in bushing **26** and bore **28**. The center hole of bushing **26** is of the size that it will rotate smoothly around pivot point **14c**. Bushing **26** may be of bronze or any other suitable bearing material. Bushing **26** is a tight fit in bore or through-hole **28** and centered topside **20c**.

At the bottom of member **14** pivot point **14c** has an internally threaded hole **22** that may be threaded 10.32 for screw **30**. Screw **30** may also have a compression spring or slip clutch **32** that fits over it to adjust the end-play and the amount of tension or drag on putter head **20**. Member **14** is secured in place with 10.32 threaded screw **30**.

Pivotable putter head **20** may be of any comfortable size or approximately 1.625 of an inch high by 4.5 inches long and 1.5 inches wide.

At the address position with the golfer gripping shaft **12** pivotable putter head **20** is able to rotate or pivot freely around the axis of golf shaft **12**. Compression spring or tension spring **32** when tighten or loosened by screw **30** will regulate how freely putter head **20** will pivot or rotate on shaft **12**. Ideally, putter head **20** should have a certain amount of lag, drag or friction and only move or swivel when being struck by a golf ball and not before.

As can be seen in fig. 6 a sectional view. Pivot point or arbor **14c** is in bushing **26** that is pressed into bore or through-hole **28**. Fig. 6 also shows rotatable member **14** secured at the bottom end by screw **30**.

As can be seen in fig. 7, pivotable putter head **20** as seen from the top is striking golf ball **34** on-center. With a center hit bushing **26** will not swivel or rotate around pivot point **14c**. Indicator **16** and **18** will not move and remain lined up.

As can be seen in fig. 8 pivotable putter head **20** also a top view. In this position golf ball **34** is striking pivotable putter head **20** off-center left. The impact of the off-center hit causes bushing **26** and pivotable putter head **20** to rotate around pivot point **14c**. When this occurs indicator **18** and pivotable putter head **20** move off indicator **16** in the direction of impact. Referring to fig. 9 the opposite of fig. 8 is occurring. Golf ball **34** is striking putter head **20** off-center right. Again bushing **26** moves or rotates around pivot point **14c** from the off-center hit and impact of golf ball **34**.

Again indicator **18** moves but in the opposite direction of fig. 8 taking pivotable putter head **20** with it.

CONCLUSION, RAMIFICATIONS, and SCOPE

Accordingly the reader will see there is a need for a golf putter or golf club that will help the serious golfer improve their feel on the putting greens as well as the golfers overall golf swing. The swivel or rotating putter and indicator will visually indicate after each shot whether the ball was struck on-center or off-center, giving the golfer instant information that will improve their golf game.

The swivel putter is as portable as any golf club, handles like a conventional golf club and gets results with very simple easy to manufacture mechanics.

In accordance with the provisions of the patent statutes, the present invention has been described in what is considered to represent its preferred embodiment.

However, these should not be construed as limiting the scope of the invention but as merely providing illustrations of some of the presently preferred embodiments of this invention.

For example, the pivot point and working parts need not be in the head of the golf club. The arbor or pivot point and all the moving and non-moving parts can be in or on the shaft of the golf club with the same results. The bushing can be a ball bearing or any means that will permit the club head to move or rotate. The pivot point need not be an arbor, it can be a hinge or any other means that will cause a club head to move when hit off-center by a golf ball. The shape of the club head can be of a different design. In the preferred embodiment illustrated is a golf putter yet the concept of the swivel or rotating club head may be any golf club including a driver.

Thus the scope of the invention should be determined by the appended claims and their legal equivalents, rather than by the examples given.